

Sinking Draw-wells in Villages of the State.

No. 5248-59—SAN. 38-12-38, DATED 6TH JANUARY 1915.

GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE.**GENERAL AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.**

READ—

Letter No. 96, dated the 14th August 1912, from the Deputy Commissioner, Chitaldrug District, requesting sanction from State Funds to an annual grant of Rs. 20,000 for a period of five years, for providing draw-wells in as many villages of the district as possible with a view to prevent epidemics of cholera in the district, as the District Board is unable to meet the cost in question though it is a legitimate charge on its funds.

2. Letter No. 2828, dated the 15th January 1914, from the Sanitary Commissioner, recommending an annual grant of one lakh of rupees from Provincial Funds for the improvement of existing water-supply in villages in the several districts.

3. Communications from the Deputy Commissioners of districts, furnishing information as to the number of draw-wells to be sunk in the districts, during the next five years, the approximate cost involved, the cost of earthwork to be executed by the villagers and the amount that can be made available from the District Funds for the purpose.

Order No. 5248-59—San. 38-12-38, dated Bangalore, the 6th January 1915.

ORDER.—As more than nine-tenths of the population in the State live in villages the improvement of water supply is a measure of great importance for the prosperity of rural areas. The chief sources of supply in such areas at present are wells, tanks, streams, rivers and irrigation channels. Of these draw-wells are best suited to villages as they can be more easily protected from contamination than other sources of water-supply.

2. The duty of providing good water-supply in villages rests primarily on the District Boards concerned. Under the existing practice, the cost of stone work is contributed by the District Board, the earthwork being done by the villagers. From the statements received from the Deputy Commissioners of Districts it is observed that the number of new draw-wells required in all the districts is about 3,000 and the cost is estimated at about eleven lakhs. The amount that can be made available from District Funds for contributions to works of this character does not exceed on the average Rs. 47,000 annually and taking the cost of earthwork done by the raiyats as equal in amount, it will not be possible according to the arrangements now in force to undertake more than a limited number of such works every year, without a special State grant.

3. Out of the two lakhs of rupees annually provided for village improvement, half a lakh may be made available for sinking and improving wells and a similar amount is now spent from District Funds. In addition to this, Government have decided to make a special grant of one lakh of rupees annually for a period of three years for sinking and improving drinking-water wells and have already provided this amount in the current year's budget. The total amount of grant from State and other funds will thus be two lakhs and if an equal amount of contribution is received from the villagers either in cash or in the shape of labour, there should be no difficulty in carrying out all the well works required in about three or four years' time.

4. In order to facilitate the execution of an extensive programme of these works and the utilization of funds to the greatest advantage the following measures are necessary.

(1) Preparation and maintenance of a correct up-to-date list of drinking water wells required to be sunk or improved in each taluk arranged in the order of urgency and importance with complete information as to the contribution which the raiyats are prepared to pay and whether in cash or in the shape of labour.

(2) Selection of the more urgent wells to be undertaken each year at the commencement of each official year and the preparation of a regular working programme according to which the works will be carried out.

(3) Maintenance of a list of wells and statement of works to be executed during the year for the whole district in the offices of the Deputy Commissioner, for the sub-division in that of the Sub-Division Office and for the taluk in that of the Amildar with clear instructions as to the responsibility of each officer in giving effect to the programme.

(4) Progress reports of the work done should be obtained every month and checked in the District and the Sub-Division Offices. These reports should also be placed before the meetings of the District and Taluk Boards.

5. As far as possible no well should be sanctioned unless the villagers concerned contribute half the cost but in exceptional cases where owing to the poverty of the population or other sufficient cause (such as the well being required for the benefit of the depressed classes the entire amount of contribution cannot be raised) discretion will be given to the Presidents of District Boards to relax the condition. A list of cases in which an exception has been made should be submitted to Government.

6. The Presidents of the District Boards are requested to give wide publicity throughout the villages in the State to the facilities now given to the villagers to provide themselves with wells and to induce the people to raise the necessary funds to meet their share of the cost of constructing the wells.

7. The question of providing each district with proper boring apparatus so that investment of money on wells likely to prove failures may be avoided is engaging the attention of Government but until a cheap and effective apparatus is devised for the purpose local officers will be expected to exercise great care in the selection of sites for wells and before any costly work is commenced, the depth at which water may be found should wherever possible be ascertained by trial pits. The Chief Engineer is requested to furnish Presidents of District Boards with a few simple suggestions for selecting suitable sites for wells. Special attention should be paid in selecting the site to allow of the well being protected from contamination from the flow of drainage water and household sullage into it and of the adoption of other sanitary precautions.

8. The special allotment of one lakh will be treated as a contribution to the Local Funds and a quarterly statement of the wells sanctioned, the amount utilized, the amount of contribution raised by the villagers should be submitted to Government.

9. The sinking of wells should be, as far as possible, entrusted to the local village agencies and where this is not possible arrangements may be made to get the work done by local contractors. The Presidents of District and Taluk Boards are expected to see that the work is properly executed and that no bills are paid unless the work has been checked by a responsible officer.

10. Each well as soon as it is constructed should be protected by a suitable parapet and all necessary precautions taken to keep the water free from contamination.

11. The Chief Engineer is requested to prepare and submit by 31st March next a set of simple instructions for sinking drinking water wells with suitable type designs for wells of different kinds.

12. The Sanitary Commissioner is requested to submit at an early date a few rules which may be distributed to Village Committees to help the villagers to maintain village water-supplies in a state of purity and free from pollution.

13. The Presidents of District Boards will intimate at an early date the amount required in each district out of the current year's allotment and take effective steps to utilize the grants placed at their disposal. The allotment required for the next year may be intimated before the end of March.

D. M. NARASINGA RAO,
*Officiating Secretary to Government,
General and Revenue Departments.*

To—The Sanitary Commissioner in Mysore.

The Deputy Commissioners of Districts and Presidents of the Municipal and District Boards.

The Chief Engineer in Mysore.

The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.

The Comptroller in Mysore through Branch II.